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REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 19 Oct. 53

SUBJECT Novaky Chemical Works, Handlova Plant

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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DATE OF INF

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The chemical works at Handlova /N 48-44, E 18-46/ was a chemical plant for the production of carbide and ferrosilicon. The factory was built in 1936 and 1937 by the then United Chemical Works (Spolek pro chemickou a hutni vyrobu). Ing. BRUNNER, at that time manager of the Chemical Works in Sokolov /N 50-11, E 12-38/, was in charge of the construction. The plant was subordinate to the United Chemical Works until January 1950 when it was attached as a branch plant to the Chemical Works in Novaky /N 48-43, E 18-33/ and renamed Novaky Chemical Works, n.p., Handlova Plant. /For the location of the Handlova Plant see the overlay at the end of this report; for the plant layout see the sketch at the end of this report/

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2. The plant consisted of two production buildings, one administration building, and two storage buildings. There was a spur track from the factory to the Handlova RR Station. There were altogether three production furnaces in the plant, each for 8,000 kw, and there were normal production laboratories. The electricity was supplied by a power station located close to the plant and built for the use of the factory in 1936 and 1937. This power station had a capacity of 40,000 kw. and also supplied electricity to the Chemical Works at Novaky. A 100,000 v tension line led from the power station to the Novaky factory. The power station used the coal from the nearby lignite mines, which were called the Handlova Coal Mines, n.p. About 2,000 miners were employed at these mines. The quality of the coal was poor because it was mixed with loam and clay, and the coal had to undergo a flotation process before

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shipment. The production equipment of the Handlova Chemical Works was [redacted] always very well maintained. The power station equipment was of Czechoslovak origin. No enlargement of the factory installation or increase of production was planned as of the end of 1951 [redacted]

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3. Of the three furnaces, two produced carbide. Approximately 1,200 tn. of carbide was produced there yearly. About 600 tn. of carbon electrodes, 300 tn. for each furnace, were used for this production. (About 50 kg. of electrodes were needed for production of one ton of carbide.) The third furnace produced ferrosilicon. [redacted]

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300 tn. of electrodes were needed for this production yearly. A total quantity of 930 tn. of electrodes was used in the plant yearly. Of these, 920 tn. were carbon electrodes of 450/500/2,200 mm. in size; 900 tn. of carbon electrodes were used in the production process itself, while 20 tn. were for the inlay of the furnaces. The remaining 10 tn., originally carbon electrodes, had been transformed into graphite electrodes by means of electricity in the Chemical Works at Sokolov. They were 130/1,000 mm. in size and were used for tapping of furnaces. All of these electrodes were of Polish origin, exported by Cziech, a Polish export monopoly, located at Jasna Street #10 in Warsaw. The purchase price (paid by Chemapol AS) was 8,150 crowns per ton for 450/500/2,200 mm. electrodes, and 11,250 crowns per ton for 130/1,000 mm. electrodes, franco RR freight car Zebrzydovice /N 49-53, E 18-37/ border station. The selling price (paid by the Handlova factory) was 929.15 crowns per 100 kg. for 450/500/2,200 electrodes and 1,258.91 per 100 kg. for 130/1,000 mm. electrodes franco RR freight car Handlova. The quality of electrodes was very good. Söderberg mass of Polish origin was also used by the plant instead of 450/500/2,200 electrodes. However, the maximum quantity of this mass which could be used was 120 tn. yearly, as the production equipment of the factory would not permit using more. The purchase price of this mass was 7,000 crowns per ton; the selling price was 750 crowns for 100 kg., terms being the same as given for the electrodes.

4. The electrodes and some of the fluorspar used at the plant were the only materials imported from abroad. All the remaining production materials were of Czechoslovak origin; the coke was from the Ostrava region and the limestone was from the limestone quarries near Margecany /N 48-53, E 21-00/. All ferrosilicon produced in the plant was destined for the Czechoslovak metallurgical industry. Some of the carbide produced there was exported. Czechoslovakia used carbide mainly for the production of plastics and acetylene. Carbide was shipped in special drums which were made in the plant. In general, the Handlova Works was a small plant but well constructed for its purpose and very well equipped.

/Overlay on map: Czechoslovakia 4561/2E. M 872. 1:25,000. Sketch of Chemical Works at Handlova. Plant layout./

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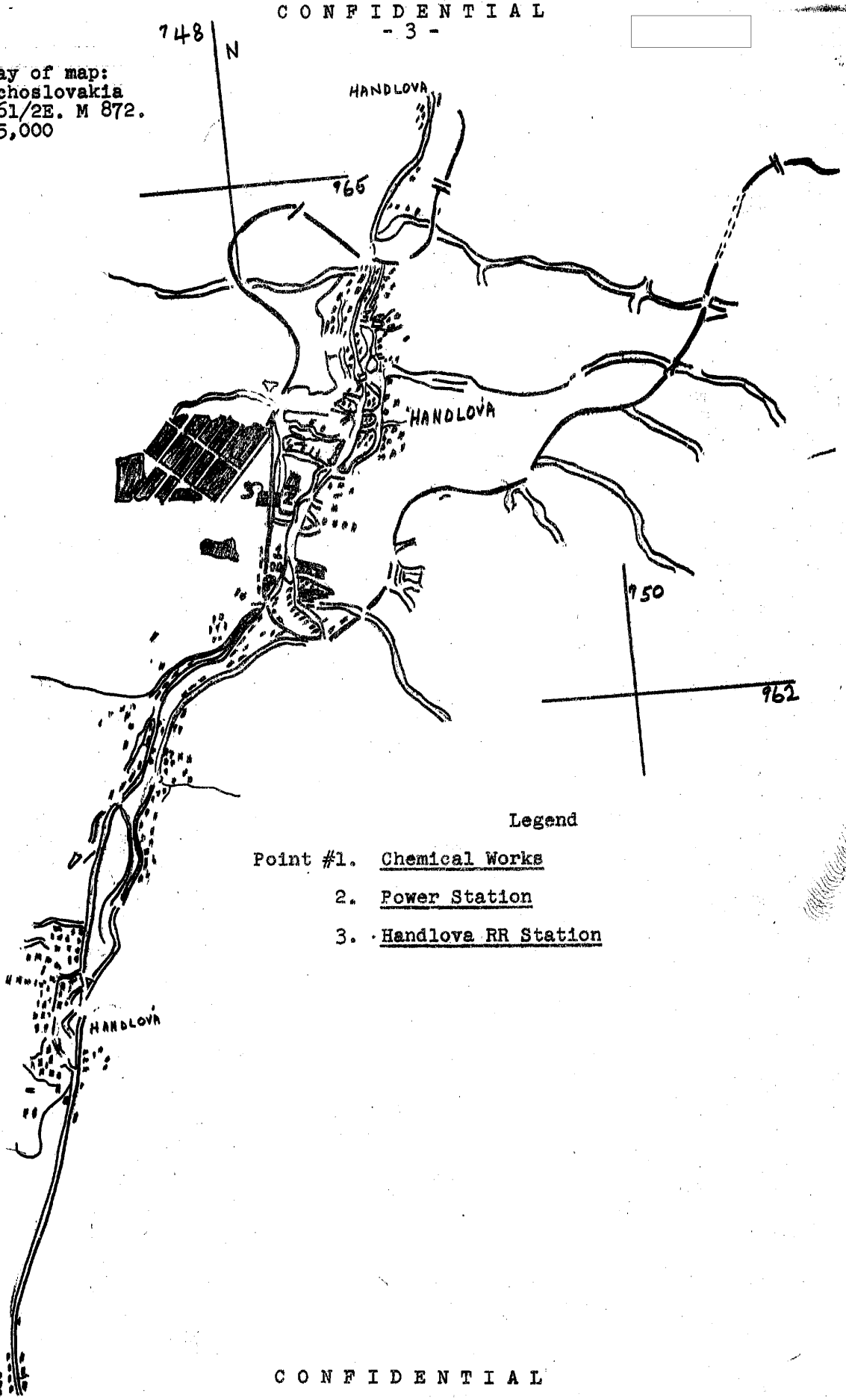
Overlay of map:
Czechoslovakia
45/61/2E. M 872.
1:25,000



Legend

Point #1. Chemical Works

2. Power Station

3. Handlova RR Station

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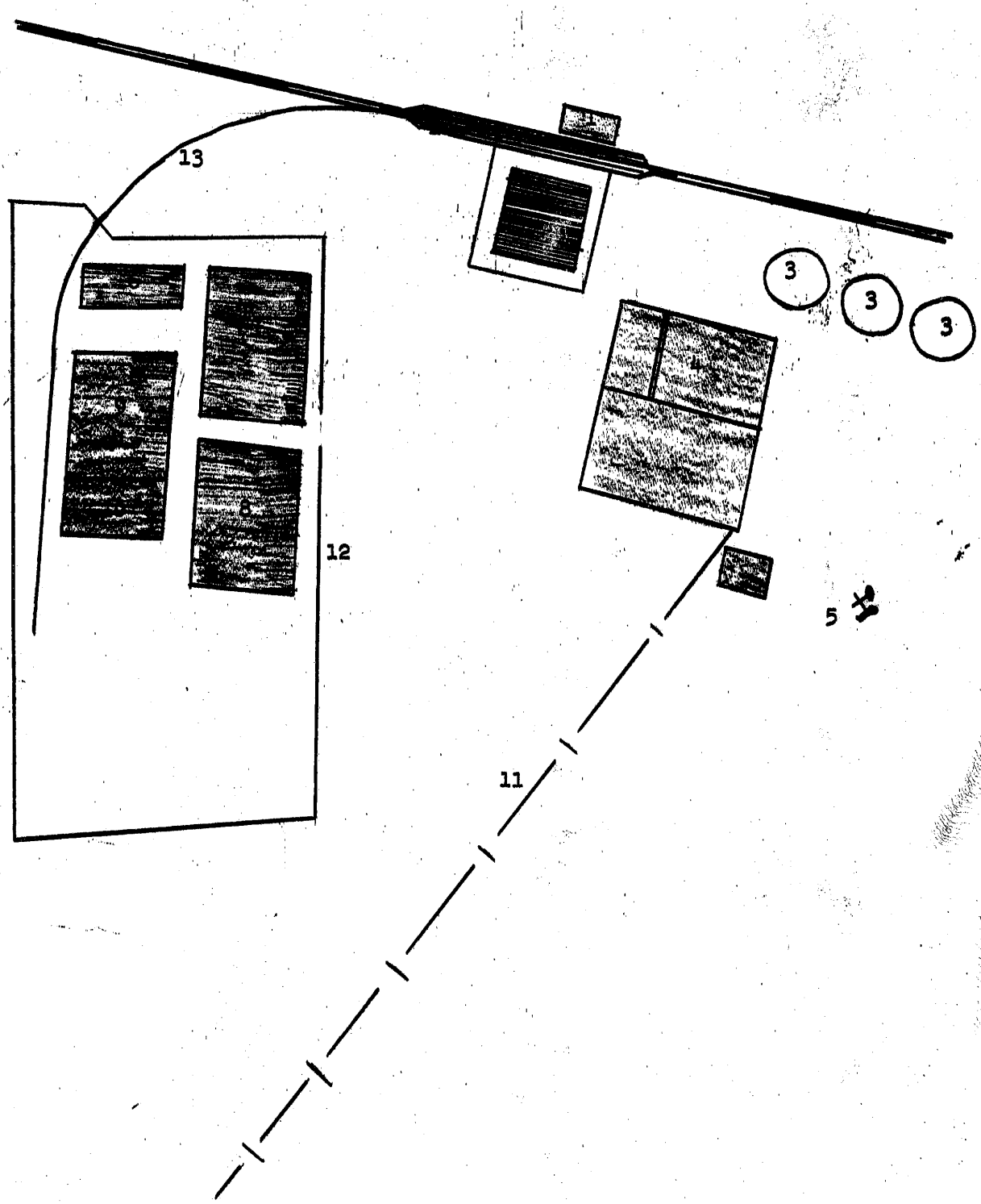
Sketch of Chemical Works at Handlova. Plant Layout.



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Legend to Sketch

Point # 1. Handlova RR Station

2. Lignite Flotation

3. Cooling Towers of the Power Station

4. Power Station

5. Lignite Mine

6. Administration Building

7. Coke and Limestone Storage

8. Fluorspar, Electrodes, and Iron Filings Storage

9. Carbide Production, Carbide Mill and Production of Metal Drums for Carbide

10. Production of Ferrosilicon

11. Tension Line (100,000 v)

12. Plant Yard Fence

13. Spur Track

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